

77-3307/1

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11 FEB 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution

FROM: E. H. Knoche
Acting Director

SUBJECT: Secret Monitoring and/or Recording
of Telephone Conversations

1. The White House has indicated that it supports the policy being put into effect at the State Department prohibiting the monitoring and recording of telephone conversations without the express consent of all on the line. Similar measures are expected to be adopted by the NSC and other departments.

2. We are obtaining more information on this subject. Meanwhile, as an interim measure, until possible problems which may arise can be studied, I am asking the Deputy Directors and Chiefs of independent offices to comply with this policy, except where, in their judgement, it would be harmful to Agency operations or security.

3. In order to arrive at a formal position on this subject, I have asked the Inspector General to receive and consider requests for exceptions that ought reasonably to apply in the Agency's implementation of the policy. For example, certain protective security measures, some testing of equipment, and certain domestic and foreign operational use of telephones should probably warrant exemptions.

4. Please advise the Inspector General, by 19 February 1977, of the specific exceptions you would request to a ban on phone monitoring and/or recording by the Agency. I plan to review these requests and their rationale prior to issuing final guidance.

[Redacted Signature]

E. H. Knoche

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See Attached

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Subject: Monitoring of Telephone Conversations
Office of Communications

STATINTL

[] reported on 17 February that the Office of Communications has no need to monitor or record telephone conversations, except for testing as provided under the guidelines by the Attorney General.